THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to increase the export of marine products, Government have been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices; assistance for production of value-added products for export; and marketing support.

(b) The export figures of marine products for the last two decades indicate that India has not been able to make much headway in increasing the export of value added products.

(c) In order to increase the export of value added marine products, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, assistance for production of value added products and marketing support etc.

(d) The standards for seafood processing units are fixed by MPEDA. The seafood processing units are also monitored by MPEDA to ensure that they meet the laid down standards. MPEDA is also a member of the Inter-Departmental Panel for approving the seafood processing establishments.

Growth of exports

2558. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated growth rate of exports during 2006-07.

(b) the share of IT, Services, traditional items, Manufacturing Sector, etc. in exports; and

(c) the share of agriculture-based products during 2004-05 and how much growth was there in the first nine months of 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) It is expected that exports would grow at around 20% during 2006-07 over the previous year.

(b) Export of services and software do not form part of merchandise exports. According to the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India on balance of payments statistics, Service exports upto April—December 2005-06 were valued at US $ 41 billion of which export of software services

was US $ 16 billion. According to DGCI&S data on merchandise exports, primary products consisting mainly of traditional items constituted around 15 per cent of total exports whereas share of manufactured goods was 70% of total exports during April-December 2005-06.

(c) The share of agricultural and allied products in India's total exports was around 10% during 2004-05. The export growth rate of this sector was around 23% during April-December 2005-06.

Benefits of Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana to EOUs under SEZs

2559. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether EOUs and units in Special Economic Zones will not qualify for benefit under the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) how Government propose to compensate those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In the Foreign Trade Policy 1st September, 2004—31st March, 2009 updated as on 7.4.2006, exports made by SEZ units and EOUs do not qualify for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana benefits.

(b) and (c) Special Economic Zone is conceptually a foreign territory as all supplies to SEZ units are treated as physical exports and hence Government does not intend to incentivise export from a unit located in an SEZ. Similarly, EOUs have a special status of tax exemptions and permission to import various requirements, including the ones in Agricultural sector, duty free, and therefore VKGUY benefits are not extended to EOU units. Further, these units have been set up primarily for exports.

Share of EPZs/SEZs in exports

2560. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of Export Processing Zones/Special Economic Zones in the country's overall export performance during last three years; and